

McNairy County Independent.

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The present expense to the government in mobilizing our militia is fully compensated in the lesson learned wherein we may be short in matters necessary in a hurried military call. The greater satisfaction is shown that patriotism is not dead or sleeping in America. Some had become to believe that loyal blood was not in the veins of America's sons. The alacrity with which the state militia responded to the call of congress and the president shows a militant spirit in its Spartan glory, when the emblem of our liberty is assailed, or our sacred soil invaded by a foreign enemy. If the continued annoyances of the half-breathens of the Mexican republic could fire the American fighting blood, what would be the result of a strong foreign foe in invading our soil. It is a lesson to the world that we are not "too proud to fight", but on the contrary volunteers by the millions would go to the front on a call for service. Whether we do have to fight Mexico or not, it is one of the noblest acts of patriotic sentiment expressed by our people since the war. It shows to the world that we are not only rich in gold, but rich in red loyal blood to shed for our country.

Reminiscent

Tuesday morning, July 4, 1916, our mine runs back to an event in early boyhood, when sixty-two years ago, a big 4th of July was staged at our home town, Carlinville, Ill.

The event was to commemorate not only the patriotic day, but the completion of the Alton & Chicago railroad to that point. This was the pioneer road, making its way to a little town on Lake Michigan. It was then one vast prairie to what is now the second biggest city in the United States. This road's southern terminus, or rather its initial point, was Alton—then a more important city than St. Louis.

Two things were indelibly impressed upon our childhood mind. First, the effect of the shrillest blast of a locomotive whistle, as we with others stood close by the panting engine, as it came to a stop to unload its human freight aboard freight cars. The second event was while at the grove where a big free barbecue was prepared, and speaking was held. This was when one man struck another with a heavy gold-headed cane, and knocked out his eye. That was the first time we ever saw blood gush from a human being, and it startled us equal to the battles now of the old world, where millions of men bleed and die.

It is quite a span, those 62 years, and the same railroad is at the same spot, and the beautiful walnut grove has changed but little. But what changes have come to the wild waste of level prairie along the line! The best farms, handsome homes and prosperous towns and cities adorn the route of the old Alton and Chicago railroad, the first great railroad from south to north through the state of Illinois.

Singing at Pleasant Sight

Independent:

As it is getting time for picnic and singing and candidates to come around, I will say in regard to the singing at Pleasant Sight which we have been having every third Sunday in July, will have it this year the Fifth Sunday in July on account of the Hardin County singing at Shiloh the third Sunday in July. So don't forget the date the Fifth Sunday. Everybody invited to come and spend the day and enjoy yourself and see the candidates; also I have been informed that we will have an Old Man's Quartet with us, and we hope we will also have Mr. John Swain and Will Wilson with us, with whom most everybody is acquainted, and it is understood that they are both nice men; and we will also have many good singers with us, so we invite everybody to come.

Since beginning these few lines I am informed that we have a death in our community, Mr. U. T. Mathis' little 3 year old son. We are very sorry for his parents and relatives.

J. A. W.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ADVOCATED

Shall There Be One in Tennessee? People To Vote On This Important Measure August 3, Next.

NOTE.—A series of articles will appear in our columns with reference to the proposed constitutional convention for Tennessee. These articles are from the friends of the movement, their motto being "Non-Partisan, Non-Sectional, Non-Factional—Just for Tennessee."

At the regular election for county officers to be held in each county on August 3d, next, the people of Tennessee will be called on to vote whether or not they are in favor of calling a Constitutional Convention.

If the people vote in favor of the Convention, then on November the 7th, 1916, an election will be held in each county to elect 99 delegates who will compose the Convention, the number being the same as the number of the members of the House of Representatives.

The Convention will not undertake to write a new Constitution. In this respect it will be different from any other Convention of that character ever held in Tennessee. Its duties will be confined to formulating such

amendments to the present Constitution as the Convention may see proper.

After this, then the various amendments are to be referred to the people for their approval or disapproval; not as a whole, but each voter will be allowed to vote on each proposed amendment separately. Such amendments as he may approve, he will vote "Yes"; as to such that he may disapprove he will vote "No."

This will be following what is called the Ohio plan, for in that State in 1912, a Constitutional Convention proposed 42 separate amendments, which were submitted to a vote of the people, so that each elector voted his will on each separate amendment. The result was that the people approved 38 of the proposed amendments, which thereby became a part of the organic law, and the remaining four proposed amendments were disapproved by the vote of the people, and consequently fell to the ground and were of no effect.

The proposed Convention is to be held under Chapters 110 and 111 of the Acts of 1915, which see for all the details thereof.

Congressional Race

Should we send a man to Congress simply because he wants the office?

Should we send a man to Congress simply to enable him to receive the salary that goes with the office?

Should we under any circumstances, send a man to Congress simply as a personal favor to him?

To each of these inquiries our emphatic answer is NO.

In the first place no man should be considered for this high office on other grounds than his fitness and qualifications for the efficient discharge of his duties, which are not like the official duties of nearly all other offices—simply statutory, in which the law plainly sets out specifically what the officer is to do. The duties of a legislator require the exercise of a wise discretion, a sound judgment, and a clear discernment of the effect of legislation upon the public welfare. These necessary and all important qualifications of a Congressman are the growth and outcome of experience and cannot be acquired in any other way.

Mr. Sims is now serving his twentieth consecutive year in Congress and no man, since our Government was established, has ever served that long who was a failure in that body. It is impossible for a man of mediocre ability to advance from the lowest to the highest committee service in the Congress of the United States. Mr. Sims has done this very thing. He started in a republican house with an assignment to the Committee on Pensions and now in a Democratic house he is the ranking member, and ex-officio Chairman of the greatest committee—Interstate & Foreign Commerce—in the House. Undoubtedly the people of the Eighth District take pride in the high rank and standing of their Representative in the law making body of this great Republic. Then why retire Mr. Sims in the full vigor and strength of body and mind simply as a favor to a new, inexperienced and untried man, who, whatever his merits may be, cannot for many years reach the heights of legislative service now occupied by our present member.

At a time like the present, when the very foundation of civilization and social order are disturbed and all but destroyed in more than half the civilized world, is it the exercise of wisdom and good judgment on the part of the people to give up a tried and experienced legislator to make room for an untried and inexperienced man?—Paris Post Intelligencer.

LEADERS FOR STATE

WANTED, PUBLIC LEADERS IN TENNESSEE, AND THE REASON WHY.

American Commonwealths Now Command the Services of Few Men of Public Rank.

By R. S. KEEBLER.

That government is bad whose offices are largely filled by underlings. It is the glory of England that her greatest men seek public honors. It is the shame of our American commonwealths that they command the services of so few men of first rank

We have made a fundamental error here in America. We have thought that by tying the hands of our ministers we were preserving our sacred rights. We have failed to see that if an officer is powerless to do evil he is likewise powerless to do good. Only dead men are harmless.

Note the condition in our own State of Tennessee. Our Legislature is hedged about with the most trifling restrictions, such as a sticking schoolmaster might lay down for a stupid pupil. It must limit its session to seventy-five days. The caption of its bills must be written just so, they must be styled just so, and passed just so. Certain matters are excluded from legislative interference altogether. Let a man be Samson himself, yet if he is mistrusted and shorn of power, he tends to become a weakling. In like manner our Legislature has become a servile, not a masterful body, spending most of its time at squandering the public funds and pandering to local interests. When a law of any consequence is enacted, it is immediately attacked upon a dozen grounds, because, forsooth, the heading is not on straight or it was not intoned the proper number of times before its passage. From one hundred to two hundred and fifty pages in every volume of our judicial reports is taken up with the consideration of constitutional quibbles, a thing unheard of in Europe. Empty forms have usurped the throne of reason, and log-rolling has assumed the garb of statesmanship. Like Gulliver in the story, our Legislature is bound to the earth by a multitude of petty thongs.

We place our Governor in stocks and berate him because he fails to wiggle. Though nominally the chief executive of our State, he cannot so much as command the services of his subordinates. He has no cabinet which he can make or unmake at will. He cannot systematize and unify the public business. He cannot take care that the laws are faithfully executed. He cannot even call out the militia in times of rebellion. He is a cog in a complex machine. He is a puppet ruler.

How can we expect our public servants to lead us in solving the intricate social problems that beset us? Great statesmen demand a wide latitude of powers. We must remove from our legislators the consideration of petty details and local measures as unworthy of their attention, and we must allow them freedom to deliberate upon the weightiest matters which concern the State. The courts must be our sponsors of justice. The Supreme Court must be given the power and charged with the duty of adopting simple rules of procedure and of unifying and reorganizing our whole judicial system upon the basis of efficiency. Our Governor should be made, as his name implies, the director of the State's policies and the executor of its laws.

The present backwardness of Tennessee is due to our lack of masterful men in public affairs. Where are our leaders? Napoleons and Blumars care not to play with jackstraws. Give them real weapons and a clear field. Great men will always appear to claim great offices; but little offices are the resort of little men. Some day we shall learn in government as in art and life that in unity and directness there is power.

Washington, June 30.—harmed automobiles cradled in the decks of warships, in sea-going rafts, for use of detachments of the United States Marine Corps in shore operations, may soon be added to the regular equipment of naval vessels. Experiments at the Boston navy yard a few days ago demonstrated that these indispensable cars can be stowed aboard by the means of electric cranes on war vessels, in a very few moments, and that the deck space they occupy is

BUCK SNORT

Declines the Presidency

I wouldn't give a copper cent To have the job of President; Be pulled and hauled about; and then To have a million hungry men A-flatterin and a-slanderin me— I wouldn't have it, no, sir-ree!

To-day a neighbor said: "Buck Snort, Ye aint a-gittin what you out; Youve got a heap of common sense, More than the most of Presidents; I aint a-tellin you no lies; We need a man about yore size; "We'll send you up to Washington Before you say Jack Robinson; It's time that Tennessee once more Was walkin through the White House door. When in the sheriff race you spoke I thought of Jackson and of Polk."

I never let on that I knowed How he'd abused me on the road Behind my back; said he would swear I couldn't tote guts to a bear, And couldn't roof a shuck-pen so That it would keep out rain and snow.

I jest remarked: "The President Can't go where yesterday I went: Out in the garden, where I knelt And with my fingers gently felt Some taters; and to my surprise, I found they was of grabblin size.

"Them new potatoes, by and by Sallie will cook with chicken pie, Along with dumplings rolled out thin— I fill up on em to my chin! I know that Woodrow's grub is good, But this here's satisfyin food."

And now I'll say I wouldn't swap My home and farm for Woodrow's crop Of cares and troubles; twouldn't suit With twice his salary to boot. I wouldn't have it—no, sir-ree— McNairy's good enough for me!

Hickory Holler, Tenn., June 30, 1916.

The Hand of the Law

A RURAL DRAMA IN THREE ACTS

Presented under the auspices of and for the benefit of the Ladies Aid Society of the Selmer Baptist Church

At College Hall Tuesday Night, July 11
8 O'clock

STORY of the PLAY

THE HAND OF THE LAW is an interesting story of New England life, the scenes being laid in the little village of Bradford, county seat of Bradford county. Dan Chamberlain, a young attorney, wins the love of Edith Hazelton, a village girl. Dan is chosen to the office of prosecuting attorney, defeating Squire Evans, owner of the grist mill, for re-election. Through force of circumstances he is placed in the position of prosecuting Ruben Hazelton, father of Edith, on a charge of murder, the circumstantial evidence being great. A misunderstanding arises between Edith and Dan, brought about by the squire, who loves Edith, and Grace, who is in love with Dan. The murdered man is George Gregory, bookkeeper for the squire, and there was but one witness, Ezra, a village lad, who is struck by a chance shot from the squire's revolver before he has an opportunity to reveal the identity of the murderer. Through the work of Abner Judkins, a tin badge detective, and through an accident which restores Ezra's memory, Ruben is cleared of the murder charge and Dan wins Edith. Comedy is furnished by Abner and by Sally Snodgrass, maid-of-all-work for the Hazeltons.

CAST of CHARACTERS

Dan Chamberlain	A young lawyer, afterwards prosecuting attorney
John H. Richardson	
Ruben Hazelton	A victim of drink
V. H. Morris	
Squire Evans	Owner of the grist mill
Aaron Brooks	
Ezra	A village lad
Julian Prince	
Luke Higgins	Sheriff of Bradford county
Montie Smith	
Abner Judkins	A tin badge detective and employe of the Hazeltons
Roscoe Alexander	
Mrs. Hazelton	Wife of Ruben
Miss Ewell Wallace	
Grace Evans	Daughter of the squire
Mrs. Addie Gray Browder	
Edith Hazelton	Daughter of Ruben
Mrs. Esther Richardson	
Sally Snodgrass	Maid-of-all-work
Mrs. Mary Peebles	

Admission 15 & 25c

very little. United States Marines Hayti, and Santo Domingo, but the found great need for armored cars in cars they used had to be shipped to their recent operations in Mexico, them by regular naval transports.

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It's a sale of light weights—but it's no light weight weight sale

Chas. H. Gish
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TUBULAR WELL DRILLERS

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Fairbanks-Morse and Southern
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PHONE 26, BETHEL SPRINGS, TENNESSEE

The Wise Saying of a Great Business Man

When you get a good customer strive to keep him, but when you get a bad one strive to keep yourself. The McCaskey System will help you to this end. The desirable customer will appreciate and is really entitled to an itemized statement of his account with each purchase. The Merchant can furnish it to him with no extra cost or labor with the McCaskey System. The undesirable customer don't want to know, neither does he want his merchant to know what he owes. The McCaskey System keeps both posted. Take the wise saying of the great business man; keep your good customer by furnishing him with an itemized statement of his account. Keep yourself from the clutches of your bad customer by keeping yourself posted.

The McCaskey Register
will do this; why not buy one?